southern portion of Manchuria and the northern portion of Korea The first met with disaster, a second with failure, and while, after a third, the Korean ruler offered a qualified submission, the Emperor had suffered greatly in prestige. These misfortunes were followed by a further loss of *kudos* when Yang Ti was trapped in a fortress (in Northern Shansi) by the Turks and was saved only through the strategy of a young officer, Li Shih-min —of whom more in a moment. These reverses fanned into flame the discontent which the vigorous measures and costly public works of the Emperor had fomented. Revolts broke out in several sections, Yang Ti shut himself up in one of his palaces in Yangchow, and, possibly because he saw that all was lost, gave himself over to pleasure. Some of the rebels forced their way in and killed him (618). Of the two puppets of the imperial family who were set up in the course of the revolt, one was killed and the other abdicated, both in 619.

THE FOUNDING OF THE T5ANG DYNASTY: KAO TSU (REIGNED A.D. 618-626) AND T'AI TSUNG (REIGNED A.D. 627-649)

Several of the rebels against the Sui attempted to set themselves up as its successor. One, however, Li Yuan, partly because of the ability of his second son, Li Shih-min, quickly eliminated the others. Li Yuan was of aristocratic lineage, a native of the North, and held a title of nobility from the Western Wei. His mother, it is well to note, was of non-Chinese extraction. The dynasty of which he was the first monarch, the T'ang, is dated from 618. The capital was established at Ch'angan (not far from the site of the Ch'angan of the Han), so that again, as so often before, the center of Chinese power was on the fertile

plain of the Wei. The position was one from which commerce could be carried on across the overland trade routes and military expeditions be dispatched to the Northwest, that dangerous highway of invasions. It was a strategic location for the headquarters of empire—although such considerations did not necessarily enter into the T'ang's choice of the site. During most of his reign, Li Yiian, or, as he is better known to posterity, Kao Tsu, was largely engrossed in suppressing his rivals and in making his position secure. In 627, in his early sixties, he abdicated in favor of Li Shih-min.